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The reports published in the daily papers indicate an increase in mortality within the past few days.

Total number of deaths reported for week.....	1, 645
Total number of deaths for corresponding week previous year.....	551
Mean number of deaths for corresponding week in preceding five years.....	526
Proportionate number of deaths for past week based on record of preceding five years .....	263
The excess of mortality which may be attributed to deaths from plague is.....	1, 382
Average per day—deaths from plague.....	197
Number of deaths from bubonic fever (plague) officially reported for week.....	516
Average per day.....	74

S. COMFORT,  
*United States Consul.*

#### JAPAN.

##### *Reports on smallpox in Japan.*

HIOGO, JAPAN, *January 21, 1897.*

SIR: Confirming my dispatch No. 86, dated November 21, 1896, advising the Department of State of the prevalence of smallpox at Hiogo (Kobe) in epidemic form, I sincerely regret having to advise the Department of State that since the day of dating of the dispatch above referred to, the number of cases reported to me by the sanitary authorities of the prefecture as having been treated in the city of Hiogo (Kobe) are 870, of which 465 proved fatal. The number of cases reported in the several subdivisions of the kew or prefecture, exclusive of the city above referred to, exceed by some 40 the above-stated number.

Smallpox appeared in Osaka, 18 miles distant from Hiogo (Kobe), on the 6th ultimo, and since that date the number of cases reported has been 1,257, of which 421 proved fatal. In order to show the progress of the disease in Osaka, since its outbreak in epidemic form, a copy of the weekly returns received at this consulate from the sanitary authorities is herewith transmitted, marked "Inclosure 1."

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN CONNELLY,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

*Copy of smallpox statistics received at the United States consulate at Hiogo (Kobe), Japan, from the sanitary authorities at Osaka, Japan.*

Date.	New cases.	Deaths.
Reported up to December 6, 1896.....	91	10
December 7-13, inclusive.....	71	27
December 14-20, inclusive.....	94	13
December 21-27, inclusive.....	185	48
December 28, 1896, to January 3, 1897, inclusive.....	147	72
January 4-10, inclusive.....	183	67
January 11-17, inclusive.....	486	189
Total to date.....	1, 257	421

KANAGAWA, JAPAN, *February 3, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward for the information of the Department a clipping taken from "The Japan Daily Mail" of the 29th of January, 1897, giving statistics of the present smallpox epidemic.

I have every reason to believe that these figures have been obtained from official sources and from a summary of official reports. \* \* \*

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

N. W. McIVOR,  
*United States Consul-General.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

The epidemic of smallpox has certainly assumed serious dimensions. From the 1st of this month until the 22d, the number of cases reported from all parts of the Empire totalled 5,711, and the number of deaths was 1,600. The Nichi Nichi, from which we take these figures, says that no signs of the disease abating are yet apparent. In Tokyo, from the 24th instant to the 26th, there were 204 new cases. The following list shows the various cities and prefectures in which more than a hundred seizures took place between the 1st and the 22d instant, as well as the total deaths in each instance :

*Number of cases between January 1 and January 22.*

Place.	No. of cases.	Deaths.	Place.	No. of cases.	Deaths.
Tokyo.....	1,967	500	Fukuoka.....	183	55
Osaka.....	1,121	429	Okinawa.....	169	79
Hioogo.....	411	177	Tokushima.....	149	26
Saitama.....	285	49	Wakayama.....	130	29
Chiba.....	280	48			

Cases are also reported from Ibaraki, Kyoto, Kanagawa, and so forth, but as they do not aggregate 100 in any instance, they are excluded from the above table.

SWEDEN.

*Precautions taken to prevent the introduction of plague from India.*

CHRISTIANIA, *February 10, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit you herewith inclosed two copies of a printed circular relating to quarantine against the oriental plague, together with a translation of same.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GERHARD GADE,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

A royal decree of the 1st instant has been promulgated, of the following contents:

In pursuance of paragraph 2 of the law on quarantine of July 12, 1848, it is hereby ordered that the ports in Arabia, Persia, India, besides Formosa and the Pescadores in East Asia shall, until further advice, be considered infected by the oriental plague, and the regulations relating to quarantine against the plague and contained in said law shall immediately go into effect.

The foregoing is hereby communicated to all concerned.

In connection with the above communication, notice is hereby given that discharging quarantine is at present established only at the quarantine establishment of Christiania and pursuant to paragraph 8 of the quarantine law of July 12, 1848, and to paragraph 11 of the regulations of quarantine, dated February 10, 1849.

CHRISTIANIA, *February 5, 1897.*

F. HAGERUP.  
L. ESMARCH.